

VZCZCXRO1518
OO RUEHCI
DE RUEHKT #0471 1560909
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 050909Z JUN 09
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0271
INFO RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 6979
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 7302
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 2624
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 5346
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 6485
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 3060
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 0257
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA PRIORITY 4619
RUEHG/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2333
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 3542
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMF/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 000471

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/05/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: NEPAL: MADHESI FORUM IN DISARRAY

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Randy W. Berry. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

Forum Chairman Announces Withdrawal of Support to Government

¶1. (U) At a news conference June 5 Madhesi People's Rights Forum (MPRF) Chairman Upendra Yadav announced that his party had withdrawn its support to Prime Minister M. K. Nepal's Communist Party of Nepal - United Marxist Leninist (UML)-led government. Yadav further announced that the party central committee had met and expelled seven party leaders -- including newly sworn-in Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Physical Planning and Works Bijay Gachhadar. Yadav stated the party's actions were necessitated by the Gachhadar faction acting against the interests of the party.

But Majority of Parliamentary Party Not Behind Chairman

¶2. (C) Mrigendra Kumar Singh Yadav, MPRF Constituent Assembly (CA) member and part of the Gachhadar faction, told Emboff June 5 that, contrary to Upendra's claim no central committee meeting had taken place. Thus any actions taken against Gachhadar or others are unconstitutional. Singh Yadav maintained that 32 of the 53 MPRF CA members, and six of the ten members of the party's Political Committee, are unified behind Gachhadar. A delegation from the Gachhadar faction has met with Nepali Congress President G. P. Koirala and Prime Minister M. K. Nepal to explain the situation and to request that the PM induct additional members of the Gachhadar faction into the government. Singh Yadav asserted that the Gachhadar faction is not in favor of splitting the party, but it is opposed to Upendra's autocratic style and his uncritical support of Maoist chairman and former Prime Minister Pushpa Dahal.

Comment

¶3. (C) MPRF has never been a unified party and has come near the point of splitting a number of times in the past year. The Interim Constitution states that if at least 40 percent of the members of a party's central committee favor a split, then both factions can be recognized as independent parties, but does not directly address splits within parliamentary parties. Given that the Chairman of the CA is from the PM's

party, and that without MPRF's 52 votes the coalition majority becomes razor-thin, it is unlikely that either the PM or CA will recognize Upendra's demands. Although previously Upendra was viewed as having the support of the central committee, the openness of divisions within the party this time may lead to a split, with Upendra in the minority. Even if MPRF finds a way to maintain some superficial form of unity, it does not bode well for stability of the new government.

POWELL